

HISTORIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

This plan, The Next Ten Years, is an amendment to the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor approved by the Secretary of the Interior on June 4, 1990. The legislation creating the Corridor, P.L. 99-647, provides no regulatory powers to the Commission. The Commission, as prescribed in Section 9, Duties of Other Federal Entities, has review authority on activities being conducted by other federal entities that directly affect the Corridor.

The purpose and need for the plan amendment is found in P.L. 104-333 Section 901, which 1) extended the term of the commission, 2) added five communities to the Corridor, and 3) authorized funding. This plan amendment affirms the 1990 plan and extends its program to the new communities. The Commission is committed to assuring both environmental and historic compliance on projects in the Corridor as they are implemented.

Federally-funded activities in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor are subject to compliance requirements under both the

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. NEPA and the regulations and procedures issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500 - 1508) direct that the federal government consider the impacts of projects which include federal actions. When needed, the Commission assists with environmental and historic compliance at the project level, offering and providing technical and financial assistance to partners as they are funded and ready to implement projects.

The state historic preservation officers and the directors of the Departments of Environmental Management for both Massachusetts and Rhode Island serve as Commissioners that approve, participate in, and are consulted routinely during the implementation of Commission-funded activities within the Corridor.